



Languages Spoken by English Learners (ELs)

Fact

States annually report the five languages most commonly spoken by ELs and the number of ELs who speak each language. In SY 2015–16, the languages most commonly spoken by ELs in U.S. public schools were Spanish/Castilian, Chinese, Arabic, Vietnamese, Somali, and Haitian/Haitian Creole. Approximately 50 languages appear in one or more states’ top-five lists.

Twenty-Five Most Commonly Spoken EL Languages and Language Categories, as Reported by States, Including DC: SY 2015–16

Table with 2 columns: Language Spoken, Reported Number of EL Speakers. Lists 25 languages from Spanish/Castilian to French with corresponding speaker counts.

Fact

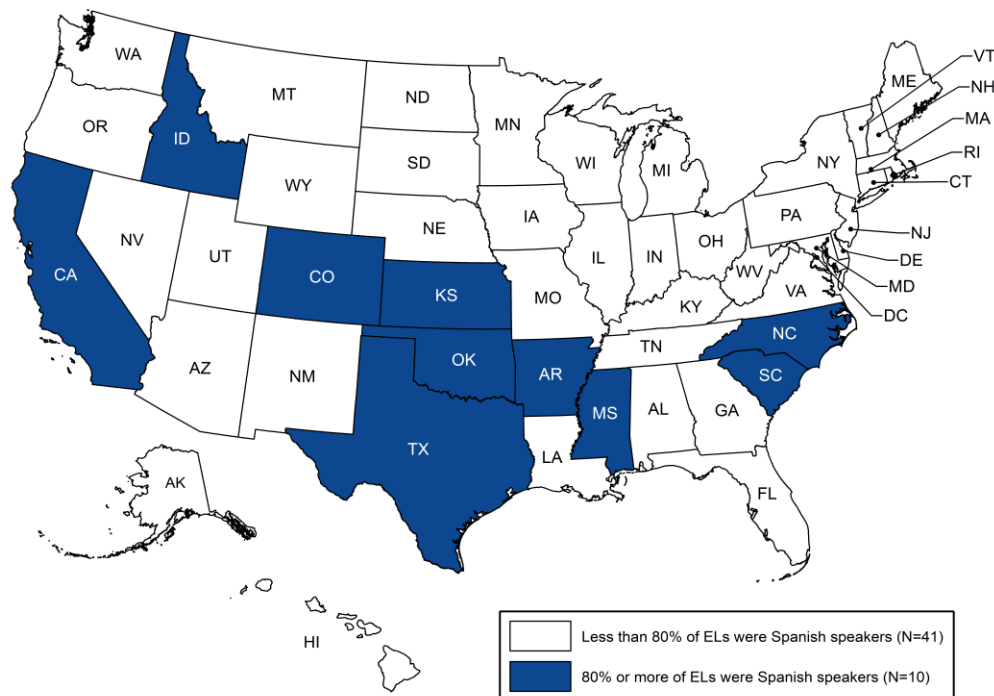
ELs in U.S. public schools are reported as speaking over 400 different languages and dialects.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Consolidated State Performance Reports, SY 2015–16.

## States, Including DC, With 80 Percent or More Spanish-Speaking ELs: SY 2015-16

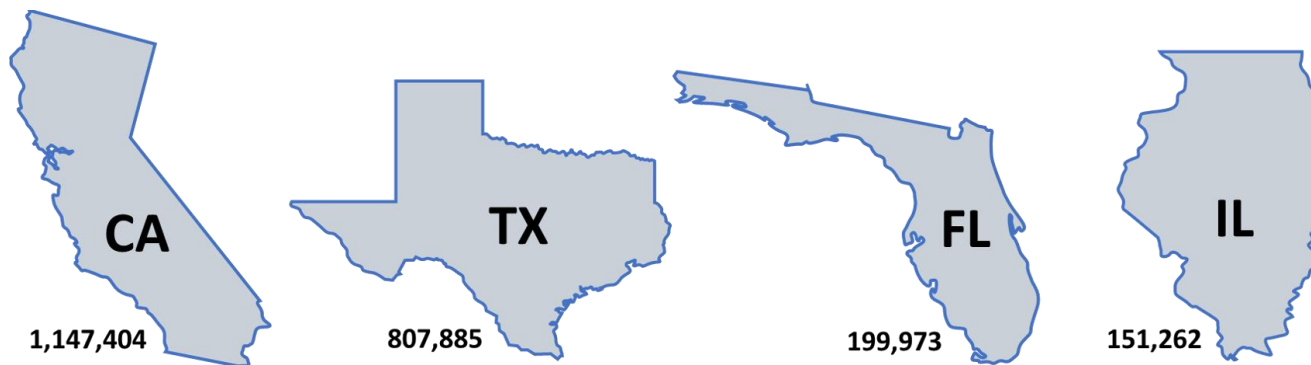
**Fact**

Ten states reported that 80 percent or more of their ELs spoke Spanish. An additional nine states and the District of Columbia reported between 75.5 and 79.7 percent of their ELs spoke Spanish in SY 2015–16.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, Consolidated State Performance Reports, SY 2015–16.

## Top Four States with Highest Number of Spanish-Speaking ELs: SY 2015–16



**Fact**

- In SY 2015–16, four states (California, Texas, Florida and Illinois) contained more than 2,300,000 (62 percent of) Spanish-speaking ELs.
- 23 states reported 50,000 or more ELs in public schools in SY 2015–16, with CA and TX leading with 1,373,724 and 892,000 ELs, respectively.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Consolidated State Performance Reports, SY 2015–16.



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